

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05073 191542Z

42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 /161 W

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P R 191436Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8578

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PN PFOR SP

SUBJ: TORRIJOS TO VISIT FRANCO

REF: PANAMA 4862

1. GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS, COMMANDANT OF PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, WILL VISIT GENERALISIMO FRANCO AT NOON SEPT. 19, ACCORDING TO "OFFICIAL NEWS" REPORTED IN PANAMA CITY NEWSPAPERS SEPT. 19. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER TACK AND MOISES TORRIJOS, PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN. SAME REPORTS INDICATE TORRIJOS AND HIS GROUP WILL CALL ON PRINCE JUAN CARLOS BOURBON IN EVENING.

2. WHILE ESTRELLA ARTICLE WAS LIMITED TO COVERAGE GIVEN ABOVE, GOP-CONTROLLED MATUTINO HAD EFE RELEASES REPORTING THAT TORRIJOS WILL LEAVE MADRID SEPT. 21, AND TRAVEL TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT WITH PRESIDENT TITO. ON SEPTEMBER 25 HE WILL GO TO ROME TO CALL ON POPE PAUL VI. REPORTEDLY, THE VATICAN SECRETARIAT EXTENDED INVITATION TO TORRIJOS SEVERAL DAYS

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AGO. ACCORDING TO THE EFE ARTICLE TORRIJOS PLANS TO RETURN TO

PANAMA IN SEPTEMBER.

3. A GOP OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT VISIT WITH FRANCO WAS BEING SOUGHT AND ALSO THAT TORRIJOS WOULD VISIT "ARAB" COUNTRIES. WE NOTE THAT HE EARLIER ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE INVITATIONS TO VISIT ALGERIA AND LIBYA AT UNDETERMINED FUTURE DATE (REFTEL PANAMA 4862).
SAYRE

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